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ATTACK ALBANIAN OFFICIALS' IGNORANCE OF LAW

According to Item 20 of the Law on People's Councils, members of people's councils enjoy immunity in the area where they are chosen. Nevertheless, there are people's councils which have failed to observe the immunity of their members. According to law, the right to withdraw the immunity of a member is held by people's councils and their executive organs, whereas his actual removal from office is the right of the citizens who originally elected him.

In some people's councils, the immunity of members has been withdrawn for petty reasons, an unjust action. This has occurred because both officers and members of people's councils are too often unfamiliar with the laws regulating their activities.

People's councils err when they believe that their obligation ends with the dismissal of a member who has neglected to fulfill his duties. The president of the executive committee of the people's council of Mjete, Shkoder Rreth (district), was dismissed for gross negligence of duties. However, the people's council which took this action performed only part of its duty, for it failed to analyze thoroughly the causes for the dismissal, and, most important of all, failed to discuss these shortcomings openly for the benefit of all members of the people's council.

Similar cases were noted elsewhere. One of these was the successive dismissal of two secretaries of the people's council of Shpat, Elbasan Rreth, although most members of the people's council were unaware of the precise inadequacies of the two secretaries. Much the same thing occurred in the case of the secretary of the executive committee of Berat Rreth.

Such summary procedures stifle criticism and self-criticism among the masses. In addition, they show fear of subjecting people's council members and their executive organs to criticism, without which they can hardly be expected to be aware of their shortcomings and to correct them.

It is also essential that members of people's councils make a special effort to familiarize themselves better with the laws of the Albanian People's Republic, so that they may end such irregularities and inadequacies described above.

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